

opportunities of displaying his abilities, and so raised him in the esteem of *Labyntus* that he sent him on an embassy into *Egypt*. *Æsop* acquitted himself of his commission to *Amasis* with great reputation, and returned to *Labyntus*, laden with honours and rewards. He at length went once more to visit *Greece*, and having heard of the wisdom, piety, and learning of the inhabitants of *Delphos*, paid them a visit when, to his great surprise, he found them immoral, ignorant and conceited; on which he boldly reprov'd them, and endeavoured to make them alter their conduct. The magistrates were greatly offended at this liberty, and fearing lest he should expose their vices in other countries, resolved to take away his life; but not thinking it safe to do this privately, they resolved to do it under the form of Justice. For this purpose, when he was preparing for his journey, they caused a golden cup belonging to the temple, to be conveyed into his baggage. He was no sooner out of the town than he was pursued, taken, and charged with sacrilege: *Æsop* pleaded his innocence, and laughed at them as a set of madmen; but his boxes being searched, the cup

cup was found, and *Æsop* was sent to prison. The next day he was brought to court, where, notwithstanding the clearest proofs of his innocence, he was sentenced to be thrown from the cliff when with great difficulty they were able to get them to hear him speak. He told them a fable that was applicable to the circumstances; which struck into the hearts of the *Delphians*, who calling to the executioner, he suddenly gave them the blow. The stone which stood just by; he told him, that the altars of the temple were a sanctuary to those who upon which he told them that he was who being injured by a tyrant, he was notwithstanding his conduct to draw down vengeance upon the oppressor: and 'you, who are so fond to flatter yourselves with justice and oppression, shall never escape unpunished.' He being still more enraged, they ordered the officers to take him from the cliff to execution; when *Æsop*